

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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AGRE-00 DHA-02 EA-07 IO-13 IGA-02 /121 W
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R 040620Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5104
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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JOINT STATE/AID/USIA/PC MSG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, ECON, EAID, EAGR, MILI, RW
SUBJECT: TRENDS IN RWANDA: JUNE/JULY 1977

SUMMARY: WE WERE ASSURED SUTMER WOULD BRING "DOG DAYS" TO RWANDA,
BUT JUNE/JULY WERE LIVELIER THAN EVER. RWANDANS BEAT DEVELOPMENT
DRUMS IN EVERY POSSIBLE PITCH: TWO WEEKS OF NON-STOP PROJECT
DEDICATIONS AND VISITS; A WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE OF GOR AMBASSADORS
TO STUDY WAYS OF ATTRACTING MORE FOREIGN CAPITAL; A
MAJOR SEMINAR ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT; AND AGREEMENT WITH
ADF FOR FINANCING A NEW DOLS 5 MILLION TEA PROJECT. RWANDAN ARMY
GOT DEEPER INTO DEVELOPMENT ACT WITH FORMATION OF AN ENGINEERING
COMPANY AND INAUGURATION OF ARMY'S OWN MECHANIZED BRICK FACTORY.
AND AS CENTERPIECE, A WEEK OF NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT WHICH
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PRESIDENT RECOUNTED DEVELOPMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF SECOND REPUBLIC'S
FIRST FOUR YEARS. (MAYBE AUG WILL BE SLOWER). END SUMMARY

1. NATIONAL DAY: ELOQUENCE AND OPTIMISM

HABYARIMANA GAVE PLENTY OF CREDIT TO THE REVOLUTIONARY FATHERS OF
1959 AND 1962 FOR THROWING OFF "DOUBLE YOKE OF COLONIALISM AND

FEUDALISM," IN HIS ELOQUENT JULY 5 NATIONAL DAY SPEECH. BUT HE ALSO GAVE OUSTED KAYIBANDA CLIQUE HELL FOR CORRUPTING THE REVOLUTION, CONCENTRATING POWER AND WEALTH IN HANDS OF SELFISH MINORITY, AND SOWING TERROR, RACIAL HATRED, AND REGIONAL ENMITY AMONG CHILDREN OF REVOLUTION.

SECOND REPUBLIC, HE SAID, HAD RESTORED INDIVIDUAL RWANDAN TO RIGHTFUL ROLE OF FULL PARTICIPANT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THROUGH HIS OWN AND HIS MINISTERS' CONSTANT TRAVELS AROUND COUNTRY, NATIONAL DIALOGUE HAD BEEN RESUMED; THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRUCTURING, INDIVIDUAL COMMUNE HAD BECOME FOCUS OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND MEETING PLACE BETWEEN GOVT AND GOVERNED; AND THROUGH "UMUGANDA," WORTH OF INDIVIDUAL LABOR HAD BEEN RESTORED--WITH BLISTERED HANDS, BUREAUCRATS NO LONGER SCORNE HARD-WORKING PEASANTS AND THEIR HOES.

PRESIDENT BOASTED OF GENUINE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. SUCCESSFUL "UMUGANDA" PROJECTS INCLUDED A PRINCIPAL KIGALI BOULEVARD, NUMEROUS INTERIOR ROADS, WIDESPREAD VEGETABLE AND COFFEE PLOTS, FISH-GROWING TANKS, SCHOOL BUILDINGS, AND COOPERATIVES (SOME OF WHICH, HE ADMITTED, WEREN'T WORKING TOO WELL YET). AND DORMANT KAYIBAND PROJECTS HAD BEEN DUSTED OFF AND IMPLEMENTED: HIGHWAYS, FACTORIES, TOURIST HOTELS, TEA PLANTATIONS, EXTENSION OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS. BEST OF ALL, HE SAID, IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES HAD BRIGHTENED PROSPECTS FOR VAST NEW PROJECTS TO BRING INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT TO RURAL MASSES.

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WM PROJECTS WEEK: A TOUR OF TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS

HABYARIMANA AND HIS MINISTERS THEN SET OUT TO SHOW THAT SECOND REPUBLIC'S BOASTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE SOMETHING MORE THAN NATIONAL DAY RHETORIC. IN WHAT HAS BECOME ANNUAL EVENT, HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS TOURED THE COUNTRY JULY 4-15 INSPECTING NEWLY-BEGUN OR NEWLY-COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, PRAISING SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS, AND DEMANDING MORE OF THOSE WHOSE PERFORMANCE WAS BELOW PAR. THIS YEAR'S AFFAIR WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS' AND INCLUDED OVER 55 PROJECTS WITH TOTAL VALUE OF PERHAPS 70-80 MILLION DOLLARS.

THIRTY COMPLETED PROJECTS WERE INAUGURATED INCLUDING CHINESE-BUILT KIGALI-RUSUMO ROAD, A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE BETWEEN KIGALI AND BUTARE, NEW BELGIAN-BUILT TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS AT AKAGERA GAME PARK, AND A ONE-MILLION-DOLLAR BANANA "WINE" FACTORY IN KIGALI'S INDUSTRIAL PARK. SMALLER BUT NO LESS INTERESTING WERE THE NEWLY-LAUNCHED NAIL, PAINT, AND FOAM MATTRESS FACTORIES AND A TIRE RECAPPING PLANT, ALL INVOLVING PRIVATE INVESTMENT. MOST OTHER NEWLY-COMPLETED PROJECTS WERE GOVT OFFICE BUILDINGS, MEDICAL FACILITIES, AND IN KEEPING WITH THIS YEAR'S "HABITAT" EMPHASIS,

HOUSING PROJECTS.

EMOTIONAL HIGHPOINT WAS UNQUESTIONABLY FORMAL OPENING OF CHINESE ROAD TO RUSUMO, ON TANZANIAN BORDER--A FIRST RATE PIECE OF ROAD WORK, FINISHED MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, WHICH HAS WON ITS BUILDERS WIDE RESPECT AND GRATITUDE ("THEY EVEN TAUGHT RWANDANS TO DRIVE TRACTORS," SAID AMBASSADOR TO U.S. UBALIJORO). COMPLETION SIGNALED MASSIVE DEPARTURE OF MOST OF 1400 CHINESE, AS WELL AS THAT OF PRC AMB HUANG, NOW THE RANKING DIPLOMAT IN KIGALI (NEW ASSIGNMENT UNKNOWN).

MOST NOTEWORTHY AMONG THE NEW PROJECTS IS THE 5-YEAR, 19 MILLION DOLLAR BUGESERA-GISAKA-MIGONGO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. THE PROJECT IS BEING FINANCED PRINCIPALLY BY THE WORLD BANK (DOLS 14 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILLION) AND THE ARAB DEVELOPMENT BANK (DOLS 4 MILLION) AND INCLUDES ROADS, SCHOOLS, VETERINARY FACILITIES, HOSPITALS, REFORESTATION, IRRIGATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SETTLE 1200 FARM FAMILIES IN FERTILE BUT UN-HOSPITABLE AKAGERA VALLEY. OTHER NEW PROJECTS INCLUDED A FRENCH-FINANCED 120-ROOM HOTEL IN GISENYI, MEDICAL FACILITIES, HOUSING, AND FOUR TEA FACTORIES.

AMONG LATTER WAS DOLS 1.5 MILLION PLANT BEING BUILT JOINTLY BY GOR AND TEA IMPORTERS, INC., OF U.S. (WITH OPIC AND IFC BACKING), WHERE MINAGRI NYAMURAMBAHO LAID CORNERSTONE, LAUDED U.S.-RWANDAN COOPERATION, AND URGED RAPID COMPLETION. (OTHERWISE, GOR SUCCEEDED IN MAKING EMBASSY PAINFULLY AWARE DURING "PROJECT WEEK" THAT OF 55 PROJECTS VISITED ONLY THIS ONE INVOLVED U.S. FINANCING.)

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3. RWANDAN AMBASSADORS GET NEW MARCHING ORDERS

RWANDA'S HUNGER FOR DEVELOPMENT HAS NO BOUNDS, AND ITS AMBASSADORS WERE BROUGHT HOME IN MID-JULY FOR AN INTENSIVE WEEK OF IMMERSION IN DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. SESSIONS WERE PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH "PROJECT WEEK" AND FORMAL RATIFICATION OF NEW GOR FIVE-YEAR PLAN. AMBASSADORS WERE TOLD THAT DIPLOMACY-AS-USUAL WOULD NO LONGER SUFFICE, THAT THEIR PRIMARY TASK WAS TO ATTRACT DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND THAT TO THIS END THEY SHOULD ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE "REALITIES" OF RWANDA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

PRES. HABYARIMANA OPENED FORMAL SESSIONS WITH ANOTHER UPLIFT SPEECH AIMED AS MUCH AT DIPCORPS GUESTS AS AT RWANDANS. AFTER DRAWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTED ATTENTION TO "HUMANIST" NATURE OF RWANDAN REVOLUTION AND ITS RESPECT FOR LIBERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, HE TOOK PAINS TO THANK RWANDA'S FRIENDS FOR DEVELOPMENT AID AND, IN PARTICULAR, DISASTER ASSISTANCE DURING PAST YEAR'S PETROLEUM AND DROUGHT CRISES. RWANDA'S GRATITUDE WAS EXCEEDED ONLY BY ITS ENORMOUS NEEDS, HE ADDED, AND HUMAN SOLIDARITY/INTERDEPENDENCE DEMANDED EVEN GREATER HELP BY DC'S TO THIS LEAST DEVELOPED OF LDC'S.

TO RWANFA'S AMBASSADORS: BE ACTIVISTS, KNOW RWANDA, MAKE RWANDA KNOWN TO YOUR HOST, AND FIND HELP IN SOLVING ITS DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. MAKE YOUR REPORTING SERIOUS AND ANALYTICAL, KEEP UP U DIALOGUE, AND ABOVE ALL SACRIFICE: THERE'S NO MONEY FOR FRILLS.

WE UNDERSTAND SUBSEQUENT CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS '12-HOUR SESSIONS ALL WEEK) HAD SIMILAR FOCUS. AMBASSADORS AND FONMIN ARGUED AT LENGTH OVER WHICH "FRIENDS" WERE REALLY AIDING DEVELOPMENT, WHY OTHERS

(NOTABLY INCLUDING U.S. AND USSR) WERE DOING SO LITTLE, AND WHAT NEW STRATEGIES MIGHT WIN MORE AID AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT. THERE WAS MUCH STUDY OF 5-YEAR PLAN AND NEW INVESTMENT CODE. AGONY OVER

POPULATION PROBLEMS (AMBS WERE TOLD GOR IS NEGOTIATING LABOR, EXPORT AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND DISCOURAGING MIGRANTS NOW ABROAD FROM RETURNING HOME), AND ENDLESS HASSLING OVER ADMINISTRATIVE UND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

4. GOR FOREIGN POLICY REVIEWED

PRESIDENT ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE TO SUMMARIZE GOR GOREIGN POLICY, PECMITTING US TO OFFER THIS HANDY POCKET GUIDE:

(A) IN GENERAL, OUTLOOK FOR WORLD COMMUNITY IS GROWING WORSE, NOT BETTER. DESPITE "IMPRESSIVLEY" FREQUENT MEETINGS ON BURNING SUBJECTS, POSITIONS AT THESE MEETINGS SEEM TO BE HARDENING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROWING FURTHER APART.

(B) AFRICAN SCENE PARTICULARLY ALARMING, WITH REAPPEARANCE OF INTRA-AFRICAN FIGHTING AND BLOODSHED ON ALL SIDES. JOINT EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY, AND NO ONE HAS RIGHT TO DISTRACT AFRICA WITH WARFARE NO MATTER WHAT ITS REASONS OR GOALS.

(C) UNFORTUNATELY, AFRICA REMAINS THEATER FOR IDEOLIGICAL STRUGGLE AMONG GREAT POWERS, OFTEN PLAYED OUT IN INTRA-AFRICAN DISCORD.

AFRICA SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS RIVALRY. POWERS SHOULD JOIN US IN STRUGGLE AGAINST UNDERDEVELOPMENT, POVERTY, AND IGNORANCE-- NO MATTER WHAT COLOR THEIR BANNERS.

(D) ONLY BRIGHT SPOT ON HORIZON (AND NOT SO VERY BRIGHT AT THAT) IS PROGRESS TOWARD DECOLONIZATION IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, AND TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. MAPUTO AND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCES, INCREASED AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ARE HOPEFUL SIGNS.

(E) EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA NOT RPT NOT UNRELATED TO TRAGIC MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. NO SOLUTION POSSIBLE THERE UNTIL ZIONIST TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLES TO HOMELAND ARE RESPECTED. NEOGITATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ON EQUAL FOOTING.

(F) KOREAN QUESTION CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BY WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, TO PERMIT KOREAN PEOPLES THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVE SOVEREIGNTY AND REUNIFICATION BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

(G) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MUST BE DEMOCRATIZED: IMPORTANT DECISIONS AFFECTING HUMANITZ'S FUTURE CAN'T BE MADE BY GREAT POWERS ALONE. RIGHT OF SMALLER NATIONS TO CONSULT AND VOTE TOGETHER MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

(H) WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS CONTINUES TO WEIGH MORE HEAVILY ON THIRD WORLD NATIONS THAN DC'S. INFLATION WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR; LATTER ARE UNDERPAID FOR EXPORTS AND DISADVANTAGED IN TRADE. BEHAVIOR OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HARDLY ACCORDS WITH GOOD INTENTIONS EXPRESSED AT 7TH SPECIAL SESSIONUNGA: WITNESS 4TH UNCTAD AND CIEC STALEMATES. WE CONTINUE TO APPEAL TO RICH NATIONS TO DO MORE TO AID POOR, EXPECIALLY LLDC'S AND LANDLOCKED (E.G., RWANDA) IN SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

(I) RWANDA PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY ARAB-AFRICAN PACT SIGNED
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AT CAIRO AND CONSIDERS IT AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD NIEO. IT ALSO
SALUTES CANADIANS FOR RENOUNCING LDC DEBTS AND HOPES OTHER INDUS-
TRIALIZED COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW EXAMPLE.

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5. GOR GETS SERIOUS ABOUT "INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT"

A KEY POINT IN PRES. HABYARIMANA'S STATE-OF-THE-NATION
SPEECH LAST JANUARY 1 WAS HIS INSISTENCE ON LARGE-SCALE
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF
ACHIEVING EFFICIENT USE OF FOREIGN AID AND ENSURING THAT SUCH
AID REACHES RURAL MASSES. AT A MAJOR SEMINAR IN BUTARE LATE
IN JUNE, GOR LEADERS TOOK AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD
PUTTING TOGETHER A STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT HABYARIMANA'S POLICY.

MINISTER OF PLAN NDUHUNGIREHE FURTHER DEFINED GOR AIMS TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS: "FROM NOW ON, OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MUST NO LONGER BE CONCEIVED AS ISOLATED EFFORTS, ENCLAVES OUTSIDE THE RURAL ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, BUT RATHER AS CAMPAIGNS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ACHIEVE A GLOBAL IMPACT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF REGIONS CONCERNED. STRATEGIES AND METHODS MUST PLACE THE RURAL POPULATION AT THE CENTER OF ALL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (AND ENSURE THAT) OPTIMUM INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS ARE ENJOYED BY THE LARGEST NUMBERS OF RWANDANS, AS PRINCIPAL ACTORS AND BENEFICIARIES."

MINISTRIES REPRESENTED AT BUTARE SEMINAR INCLUDED PLAN,

INTERIOR, YOUTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATIVES, AND AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AS WELL AS MRND. EMPHASIS LAY ON COORDINATING PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS, AND AT ENSURING THAT DONOR PROGRAMS WERE DOVETAILED IN SYSTEMATIC FASHION. PROGRAM FOCUS WAS PLACED ON INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND DIVERSIFYING CROPS ON BASIS OF REGIONAL SUITABILITY. SIMILAR SEMINARS ARE PLANNED FOR OTHER PREFECTURES, BUT BUTARE WAS CHOSEN FOR CAMPAIGN'S KICK-OFF BECAUSE IT IS AMONG MOST AFFLICTED BY POPULATION EXPLOSION, EXCESSIVE LAND USE, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND LOW LIVING STANDARDS.

6. " BUT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS STILL WIN FOREIGN FAVOR

NOTWITHSTANDING GOR STRATEGY EMPHASIS ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE MINISTER NTIRUGIRIMBABAZI BROUGHT BACK EVIDENCE FROM ABIDJAN THAT FOREIGN DONORS STILL PREFER TO PUT THEIR MONEY IN "BANKABLE" INDUSTRIAL PRUJECTS, ALBEIT WITHIN RURAL SECTOR. NEGOTIATIONS THERE WITH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND REPS PRODUCED FINAL AGREEMENT JUNE 29 ON A 5-MILLION-DOLLAR (4.8 MILLION ACCOUNTING UNITS) TEA PROJECT FOR KIBUYE PREFECTURE NEAR THE SHORES OF LAKE KIVU. ADF'S LOAN TERMS ARE SOFT: 40 YEARS TO REPAY, 10-YEAR GRACE PERIOD. PROJECT'S FIRST PHASE INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A 200-TONN TEA FACTORY, HOUSING FOR PLANT PERSONNEL AND A WAREHOUSE, ROADBUILDING, AND REFORESTATION (FOR ENERGY PURPOSES) OF 320 HRES. FINMIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID ADF REPS WILL VISIT RWANDA IN SEPTEMBER TO STUDY OTHER POSSIBLE PROJECTS.

GOR WASTED NO TIME IN GETTING NEW TEA PROJECT UNDER WAY.

AS PART OF "PROJECTS WEEK", PRES. HABYARIMANA HELICOPTERED TO PROJECT SITS ATSG SOVU JULY 13 TO PLANT FIRST OF TEA BUSHES WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY COVER 700 HRES. DURING CEREMONIES, MINAGRI NZAMURAMBAHO POINTED OUT THAT GISOVU WAS ONE OF KIBUYE'S MOST HEAVILY POPULATED REGIONS AND ONE OF ITS POOREST, BECAUSE ALTITUDE (OVER 7000 FT.) AND COLD RESULTED IN LOW OUTPUT OF TRADITIONAL CROPS. TEA CULTIVATION, HOWEVER, OVER THREE-FOURTHS OF WHICH WILL BE DONE ON COMMUNAL LANDS, APPEARS IDEALLY SUITED TO LOCAL CLIMATE AND IDEALLY SHOULD RESULT IN IMPORTANT NEW REVENUES FOR SMALL PRODUCERS.

7. ARMY FORMS ENGINEERING AND ROAD MAINTENANCE UNIT

WITH THE HELP OF A BELGIAN GRANT OF SEVERAL TRACTORS, TRUCKS, AND LIGHT EQUIPMENT, RWANDAN ARMY FORMALLY ESTABLISHED A "CONSTRUCTION AND ROAD MAINTENANCE" ENGINEERING COMPANY LATE IN JUNE. BELGIAN MILITARY ADVISERS WILL ALSO ASSIST IN TRAINING THE ENGINEERING UNIT, BEGINNING FROM SCRATCH IN MOST ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. (IN SEPARATE "PROJECTS WEEK" EVENT, PRES. HABYARIMANA INAUGURATED ARMY'S NEW SEMI-MECHANIZED BRICK-MAKING FACTORY, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY PRODUCE 6000 BAKED BRICKS PER DAY TO SUPPLY ARMY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AS WELL AS LOCAL MARKET.)

PRIVATELY, CHIEF OF BELGIAN MILITARY MISSION ADVISED US THAT ENGINEERING COMPANY WAS A LONG WAY FROM BEING ABLE TO HANDLE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. INITIALLY, FOCUS WILL BE UPON BUILDING SMALL BRIDGES AND SIMPLE FIELD WORKS, BUT HE ADDED BELGIANS ARE IMPRESSED AT ARMY LEADERS' DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP SERIOUS ENGINEERING CAPABILITY--AND HOPE WE WILL JOIN IN SUPPORTING "WORTHY EFFORT".

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8. DRAFTERS: AMB; ADCM/SIKES.
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